

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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Chairperson  
Council  
Address  
Town, State, Zip

Dear Tribal Chair:

I am pleased to inform you that Montana is planning to submit a request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to extend the current Basic Medicaid 1115 Waiver for Able-Bodied Adults. The Basic Medicaid Waiver offers a limited Medicaid benefit package of optional services for those adults age 21 to 64 who are not pregnant or disabled. The waiver populations are those adults who are eligible for Medicaid under Sections 1925 or 1931 of the Social Security Act. The waiver has been in effect since 1996 with no material changes.

CMS requires the State to submit a written request to extend a waiver no later than one year prior to the current waiver expiration date. The current Basic Medicaid Waiver will expire on January 31, 2009. We will request an extension to continue the Basic Medicaid Waiver for an additional three years, through January 31, 2012. The request to extend the Basic Medicaid Waiver contains no changes to the current program.

This is a continuation of the current Basic Medicaid program, which offers the Medicaid benefit, but generally excludes the following medical services: audiology, dental and denturist, durable medical equipment, eyeglasses, optometry and ophthalmology for routine eye exams, personal care services and hearing aids. These services have been aligned with the basic medical coverage of a work-related insurance program. That is, an employed individual who is insured under a work-related insurance policy would not have coverage for the list of excluded services. The Department recognizes that there may be situations where the excluded services are necessary, and are covered, as in an emergency or when essential to seek or maintain employment.

The Department continues to work with CMS on the Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability (HIFA) Waiver. This waiver, if approved by the Federal government, would provide health insurance benefits for approximately 5,000 more Montana citizens. As the HIFA Waiver progresses, we will provide additional information.

The Department has an electronic copy of the Basic Medicaid Waiver for your review, named the Section 1115 Waiver Application for Health Care Reform October 23, 2003, on our website at [www.dphhs.mt.gov](http://www.dphhs.mt.gov). The Medicaid Program Information Handbook explains the Basic Medicaid benefit and can be found at <http://medicaidprovider.hhs.mt.gov/pdf/medinfo.pdf>.

I invite your comments and questions regarding the Basic Medicaid Waiver. Please direct any comments to Jo Thompson, Medicaid Analyst, Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena, Montana 59604, via email at [jothompson@mt.gov](mailto:jothompson@mt.gov) or at (406) 444-2584. Thank you for this opportunity to discuss the Basic Medicaid Waiver extension.

Sincerely,

Joan Miles,  
Department of Public Health and Human Services, Director

Cc: Anna Whiting-Sorrell, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office  
John Chappuis, State Medicaid Director  
Duane Preshinger, Senior Medicaid Policy Manager  
Jo Thompson, Medicaid Analyst